To the Right Honourable

The COMMONS of ENGLAND

Assembled in

PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of the Persons whose Names are hereunder written, on the behalf of themselves and many others Proprietors and Commoners, Inhabitants in the several Parishes of Enfield, Edmonton, Hadley *and* Southmyms *in the County of* Middlesex.

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners, and all those whose Estates they claim, (amongst divers others) have time out of minde enjoyed *Common* for all manner of Commonable Beasts without number, and *Common* of *Estovers*, and divers other great Priviledges and Advantages in *Enfield Chace*, which of late have been endeavoured to be taken from them by severall Commissions under the Great Seal of *England*, grounded upon severall Orders made by *Oliver Cromwell* and his *Council*, which in the Year 1656. issued to *William Dumvill*, *Paul Nicoll*, *John Boynton*, *Hugh Webb*, Major *Rolfe*, and *Nicholas Gunton*, impowering any three of them, (amongst other things) to Survey the said *Chace*, to hear and determine your Petitioners Rights, and to allow satisfaction for them; Whereof nevertheless your Petitioners were for ever to be debarred, if their Claims were not made within Thirty Dayes after publike notice: And all *Military Officers* were commanded to assist the *Commissioners*: By colour whereof, (the two former Commissioners refusing) the four latter did Act, and they put your Petitioners and their Servants to many Attendances, and those *Military Officers* did take away the Goods, and did beat and wound some of the Persons of your Petitioners and their Servants. But before the work was finished, (*Viz.*) in the said Year 1656 an Assembly called a *Parliament* was called and held, which appointed a *Committee* concerning the four Forrests of *Needwood*, *Kingswood*, *Ashdown* and *Sherwood*, pursuant to an Ordinance made 30 of *August*, 1654. for the Sale of them to pay certain publique Debts, which the Prosecutors of *Enfield* Chace understanding, and that such Ordinances would fail, as were not confirmed by the said Assembly, they by untrue Information given to that Assembly, that your Petitioners were consenting thereto, procured *Enfield* Chace to be comprehended in the same pretended Act of *Parliament*, of Confirmations with the other Forrests; upon which Act, Instructions were grounded, wherein the same four persons were named Commissioners on behalf of the Prosecutors of the same Inclosure: And Sir *Richard Lucy*, *Henry Marsh*, *John Barnes*, *Paul Nicoll*, and Mr. *Wilford*, on behalf of your Petitioners were also named without your Petitioners knowledge and consent, and against their wills. By the judgement of which Commissioners, Allowances were to be made for your Petitioners Interests: But Sir *Richard Lucy*, and Mr. *Marsh* could not be prevailed with to act, nor the other three untill they were threatned to be sent for by a Party of Horse to the Committee of *Appeal*, in the said Act named, for the Commissioners named for your Petitioners were all or most part of them (though named by the other party) convinced in their judgments, that your Petitioners were very much wronged therein: And under colour of execution of such power the Commissioners named on the behalf of the Prosecutors, have returned a Survey of the said Chace, containing lesse by 2000 Acres at least then former Surveyes doe. All which the Purchasors were to have had without paying any thing for the same, and of the number of Acres returned they took away above half in quantity, and the very best Land in quality, and all the Wood growing thereon, Notwithstanding your Petitioners Rights, Priviledges and Advantages were by all former Acts of *Parliament* saved to them therein, and notwithstanding their Claims made thereunto accordingly, and that by the judgement of the said Commissioners a full Moity in quantity and quality was to be allowed for your Petitioners satisfaction: And they have stopped and turned many ancient High-wayes not only leading from one Town and Road to another, but from one Market-Town to another, and such as they have left and new made, are so straight as are impassable in Winter, and very prejudicial and dangerous to your Petitioners and Passengers who travell those wayes: And the pretended Purchasors of the Wood have digged up great store of the Turf and Soyl of the said Chace, and cut down abundance of Wood and Timber in the same Chace to an exceeding great value, and sold the same away from your Petitioners, and committed great spoyl and waste therein, especially upon such part of the said Chace as they would have forced your Petitioners to have accepted of, to the exceeding great grievance of your Petitioners, who have endeavoured to have Copies of the said Commissioners whole proceedings, and have offered to pay for them, yet cannot obtain them. The contrivance and carrying on of which design was principally by *William Webb* pretended Surveyor Generall, *John Meldrope* pretended Adjutant Generall, to Colonell *Lambert*, Colonell *Joyce* Colonell *Eyre*, Captain *Kemp* Mr. *Robotham*, Mr. *Lavry* a *Scotchman*, and one *Rice*, Collonel *Allen*, *Justinian Pagitt*, *Edward Randall*, and one Justice *Hobert*, and divers others who have bought poor Souldiers Debenters at Eighteen pence and two Shillings in the pounds, and expected Allowances for the whole Debenter, and Interest for the same. All which passages and unlawfull proceedings tend to the oppression and wrong of your Petitioners in their just Rights, which if your Petitioners lose will make them lesse capable of paying Taxes for maintenance of the Army, in respect many of your Petitioners Rents will much fall by the losse of the same and above an hundred poor Families will thereby be utterly undone. And many of the Purchasors as (conscious thereof) are as your Petitioners are informed, endeavouring to procure an Act of this present *Parliament*, for Confirmation: Notwithstanding they and their Agents have hitherto maintained themselves in such their misdoings with their Swords and Pistolls, and have killed wounded and much hurt many of the Proprietors and Commoners, and their Servants and Cattle in claiming their Rights, and have done other great dammage to your Petitioners, and yet some of the said Purchasors have given out in speeches, That if your Petitioners ever recover their Rights, it must be by the Sword, to the great terror and amazement of your Petitioners, whereby your Petitioners are compelled to make their Humble Addresses to this Honourable *Parliament*, for relief herein.

All which matters, and other the heavy misdoings, wrongs, and Oppressions done unto your Petitioners as aforesaid, your Petitioners humbly pray, that this Honourable Court of Parliament, *will be pleased to take into their consideration, and give such Order in the Premisses, that your Petitioners may without any interruption quietly and peaceably enjoy their Ancient Rights and Priviledges in* Enfield *Chace, which they and their Ancestors have for* 300 *years quietly enjoyed: Notwithstanding the aforesaid pretended Acts of* Parliament, *or any other things done by vertue thereof in the Premisses to the contrary, and also to call to an accompt all such persons as have made any waste and spoyle of the Timber, Trees, and other Trees and Wood growing lying and being in the said Chace, for such uses as this Honourable Court shall think fit; and to afford your Petitioners such further Relief herein, as shall stand with Justice and Equity.*

And they shall pray, &c.